

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for forming a non-woven fibrous web comprised of aramid fibers, and aramid fibril, which comprises:

(i) forming a foam furnish by agitating aramid fibers in a foamed medium, the furnish also containing aramid fibril, with an apparatus comprising agitating means mounted for displacement within the foamed medium and including a leading surface facing in a direction of displacement, the leading surface including upper and lower portions converging in the direction of displacement to form a generally convex leading surface; and driving means for displacing the agitating means in the direction of displacement for dispersing and mutually separating the fibers within the foamed medium; and

(ii) passing the foam furnish onto a screen and defoaming the furnish to form the web.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the aramid fibers agitated are comprised of fibers at least one-half inch in length.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the fibers agitated are further comprised of cellulosic fibers.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the fibers agitated are further comprised of synthetic and/or metal fibers.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the fibers agitated comprise inorganic fibers.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the agitation in step (i) creates a foam furnish having an air content of at least 50% by volume.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the air content of the foam furnish is at least 75% by volume.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the weight percent solids of the foam furnish passed onto the wire screen is in the range of from 0.2 to 2.0.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the weight percent solids of the foam furnish is greater than 0.5.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the foamed medium is formed during the agitation of the fibers.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the foamed medium is formed prior to agitation of the aramid fibers.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio of agitator width to aramid fiber length is at least 1.25.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio of agitator width to aramid fiber length is at least 1.75.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio of agitator width to aramid fiber length is at least 3.0.

15. The method of claim 2, wherein the aramid fibers are comprised of fibers at least one inch in length.

16. The method of claim 2, wherein the aramid fibers are comprised of fibers at least one and one-half inch in length.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the leading surface of the agitating means terminates in upper and lower trailing ends.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the agitating means includes a non-convex trailing surface facing away from the direction of displacement.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the trailing surface is generally concave.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the leading surface of the agitating means is continuously curved.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the leading surface of the agitating means comprises a hollow cylinder.

22. A non-woven, fibrous web prepared by the method of claim 1, which web exhibits substantially no fiber directionality.

23. The non-woven web of claim 22, wherein the amount of fibril comprises 30% or less by weight of the web.

24. The non-woven web of claim 22, wherein the amount of fibril comprises 25% or less by weight of the web.

25. A non-woven, fibrous web prepared by the method of claim 16, which web exhibits substantially no fiber directionality.

26. A non-woven, fibrous web prepared by the method of claim 17, which web exhibits substantially no fiber directionality.